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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,293	11/12/2001	Daniel H. Walker	ITT-485-A	5056
7590	12/17/2003			
EXAMINER				
FIGUEROA, FELIX O				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2833				

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 4, 10-13, 15, 16, 19, 22, 25, 26, 28 and 30 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 appears to be missing some text or a comma between lines 2 and 3. In line 10, "an open" should be --the open--; and "a bore" should be --the bore--.

In claims 4 line 3, "is" should be --being--.

In claim 4 lines 3-4, "the male endform" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 10 line 3, "the bore" lacks antecedent basis. In line 4, "the arm" should be --an arm--. Claim 10 makes unclear whether "the annular ring" and "the arm" are part of the "means for passage" (disclosed in claim 1) or whether they are a separate element.

In claim 11 line 3, "is" should be --being--. In line 3-4, "an open end" should be --the open end--. In line 4, "the male endform" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 12 line 4, "an end" should be --the end--. In lines 4-5, "the male endform" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 13 line 3, "the through bore" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 15 line 9, "the arm" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 16 lines 3-4, "the improvement" lacks antecedent basis. In line 6, after connect "a" should be deleted. In line 9, "the quick connector housing bore" lacks antecedent basis. In line 12, "the bore" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 19 line 3, "is" should be --being--.

In claim 22, line 4, "the arm" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 25 makes unclear whether "the arm" and "means for passage" (disclosed in claim 16) are the same or a separate element.

In claim 26 line 3, "is" should be --being--. In line 4, "an end" should be --the end--.

In claim 28 line 4, "the through bore" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 30 and 37 lines 3 of each, "is" should be --being--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 15 and 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, the word "means" is presented in an attempt to use a "means" clause to recite a claim element as a means for performing a specified function. However, since no function is specified by the word(s) preceding or succeeding "means," it is impossible to determine the equivalents of the element, as required by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. See *Ex parte Klumb*, 159 USPQ 694 (Bd. App. 1967).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 22, 24-26, 28, 30, 33 and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marshall (US 3,891,290).

Marshall discloses a fluid quick connector comprising: an electrically conductive connector housing (10); an endform (4) having a bore extending from one end; and an electrically conductive contact member (W) mounted in the housing and contacting the male endform to electrically connect the male endform and the quick connector housing, the contact member including: a first portion (40) mounted in the quick connector housing bore in contact with the quick connector housing; and means (46) extending from the first portion for passage through an open end of a bore in the endform in into contact with an inner surface of the male endform (col.3 lines 39-43).

Regarding claim 4, Marshall discloses the means being an arm having a bent end (shown in Fig.3) extending into the endform.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 6, 8, 9 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 20, 21, 23, 27, 31, 31, 34 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 15 and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

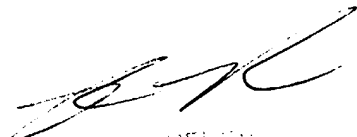
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (703) 308-0097. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

ffr



FELIX O. FIGUEROA
EXAMINER